

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OMB-01 MCT-01 /068 W

-----002900 100941Z /21

R 090951Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6075

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJ: INSURGENTS ATTACK BPP OUTPOSTS IN NORTH AND SOUTH

1. REPORTS OF ATTACKS BY COMMUNIST INSURGENTS AGAINST THAI GOVT FORCES AND INSTALLATIONS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH HAVE RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE IN RECENT DAYS.

2. FOURTEEN BPP AND SEVERAL CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED JUNE 6 WHEN BORDER PATROL OUTPOST IN PHATTALUNG PROV IN SOUTHERN THAILAND WAS OVERRUN AND BURNED BY COMMUNIST INSURGENTS ESTIMATED AT 300 STRONG.

3. ON JUNE 8 COMMUNIST FORCES ATTACKED BPP OUTPOSTS IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE IN NORTHERN THAILAND LEAVING 5 KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED.

4. IN THE NORTHEAST IN LATE MAY, A KHON KAEN VILLAGE HEADMAN WAS PUBLICLY EXECUTED BY COMMUNIST INSURGENTS WHO CHARGED WHIM WITH COOPERATING WITH THE GOVT. AS A RESULT, NUMBER OF OTHER VILLAGE HEADMEN IN KHON KAEN THREATENED TO RESIGN IN  
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PROTEST OVER WHEY THEY TERMED GOVT INDIFFERENCE TO THIS SITUATION.

5. COMMENT: AS OTHER MISSION REPORTING HAS INDICATED, THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN THAILAND'S SIMMERING INSURGENCY HAS SLOWLY INCREASED DURING THE LAST TWO DRY SEASONS IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS. THE RECENT INCIDENTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY A

HARBINGER OF ANOTHER STEP UP IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE, BUT THEY SERVE AS A BRUTAL REMINDER THAT THAILAND'S COMMUNIST INSURGENCY REMAINS A FESTERING PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE RTG AND THAT THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS RETAIN THE TACTICAL CAPABILITY TO HIT CAREFULLY SELECTED OUTPOSTS AND INFLICT SERIOUS CASUALTIES ON RTG UNITS. ONE SENIOR RTG OFFICIAL, LONG ASSOCIATED WITH COUNTER INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES, WAS NOT ESPECIALLY SURPRISED OVER THESE RECENT INCIDENTS. HE VIEWED THEM AS TYPICAL COMMUNIST TACTICS - FREQUENTLY RESORTED TO IN THE PAST - DESIGNED TO DRAW THE GOVT INTO INCREASED RELIANCE ON MILITARY ACTION TO COPE WITH THE COMMUNIST THREAT, A REACTION WHICH HE FEELS WOULD BE SHORT SIGHTED AND WOULD PLAY INTO THE INSURGENTS' HANDS.

6. AS AN INDICATION OF GOVT CONCERN, PM KRIANGSAK ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS SENDING GEN PREM TINASILANON, DEP INTERIOR MINISTRY, TO PHATTALUNG PROVINCE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COUNTERINSURGENCY, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014